



# FORMULATING EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION PLANS

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grantee Convening  
March 9, 2017





# FORMULATING EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION PLANS

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## Facilitator:

- ***Marsha Basloe***, Sr. Advisor for Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## Speakers:

- ***Patricia Mardsen-Kish***, Director of Education Programs, Norwalk Housing Authority
- ***Elson Nash***, Team Leader, Promise Neighborhoods, Department of Education
- ***Abra Lyons-Warren***, Senior Program & Policy Manager, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities





# FORMULATING EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION PLANS

## Agenda:

- Welcome
- Overview: Children birth through age 8
- Lessons from:
  - Norwalk Housing Authority
  - Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods Planning Grants
  - Council of Large Public Housing Authority's *Housing Is* Initiative
- Q&A





# FORMULATING EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION PLANS

- **We heard from you:**
  - How do you build a relationship with the local school district when they have so many other priorities?
  - What are some best practices related to early childhood education?
  - Although we have a very good school system, our kids perform worse than others – how do we address this?
  - How do you formulate a cohesive early learning and education plan when there are so many different players?
  - How can you make a difference when your kids go to so many different early learning programs and schools?





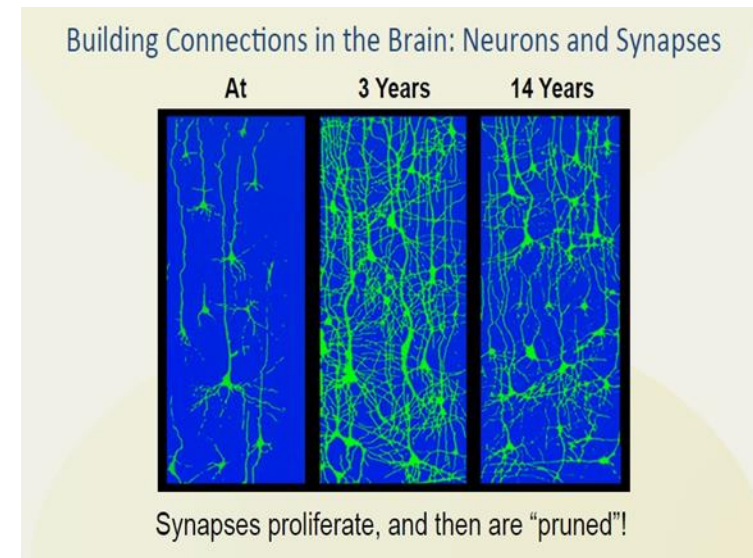
# OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY'S PANEL

- **To offer examples and advice on:**
  - How to navigate the Early Learning infrastructure in your community and the federal funding that supports this infrastructure
  - Examples of promising practices in early learning
  - How to partner with early learning providers, early learning networks and school districts
  - What types of education partnerships, data collection and strategies are feasible to accomplish during the planning process



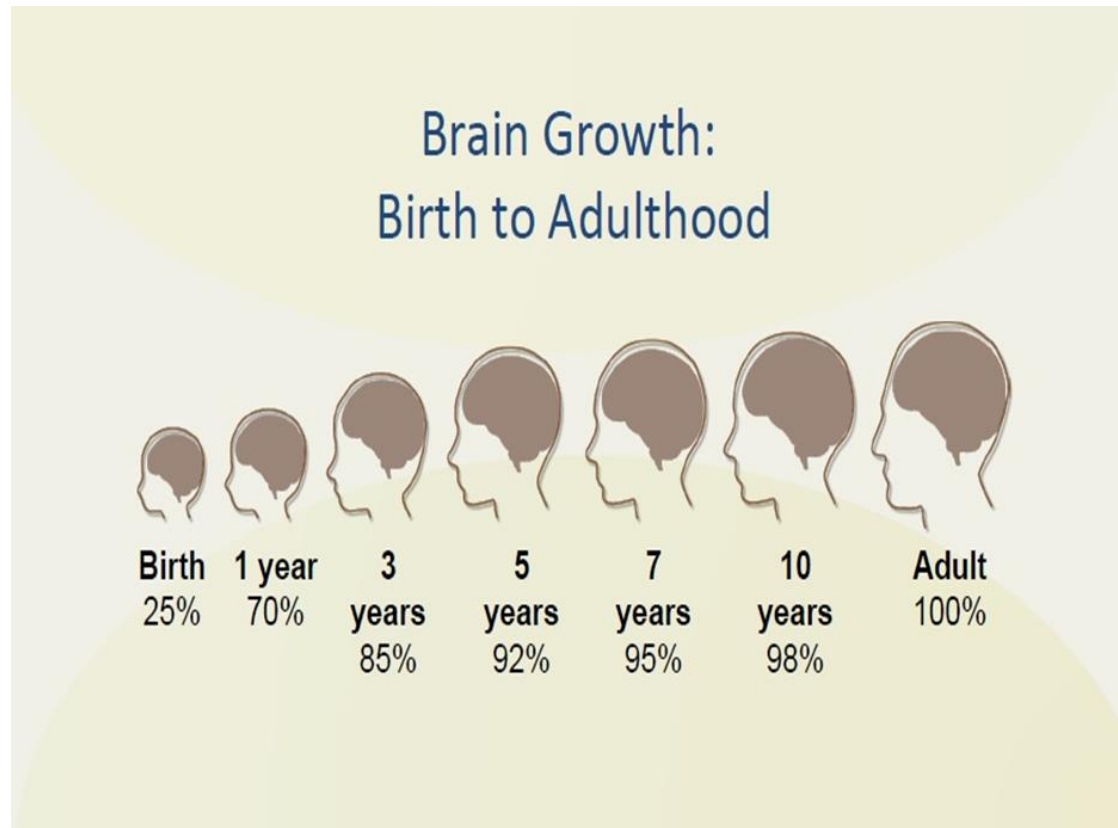
# WHY THE FIRST FIVE YEARS MATTER

- **Birth to Five** is a time of unparalleled growth!
- During early childhood, the brain strengthens the connections that are being used, while pruning away those that are unengaged.
- The most critical developmental skills learned at this early age are social emotional skills.





# WHY THE FIRST FIVE YEARS MATTER



Source: Dr. Patricia Kuhl, Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, University of Washington

<http://ilabs.uw.edu/>





# THE FEDERAL HOME VISITING PROGRAM

The Federal Home Visiting Program gives pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

- In FY 2015, the Federal Home Visiting Program served approximately 145,500 parents and children in 50 states, D.C. and 5 territories.

Goals for every program are to:

- improve maternal and child health,
- prevent child abuse and neglect,
- encourage positive parenting, and
- promote child development and school readiness.







# CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF)



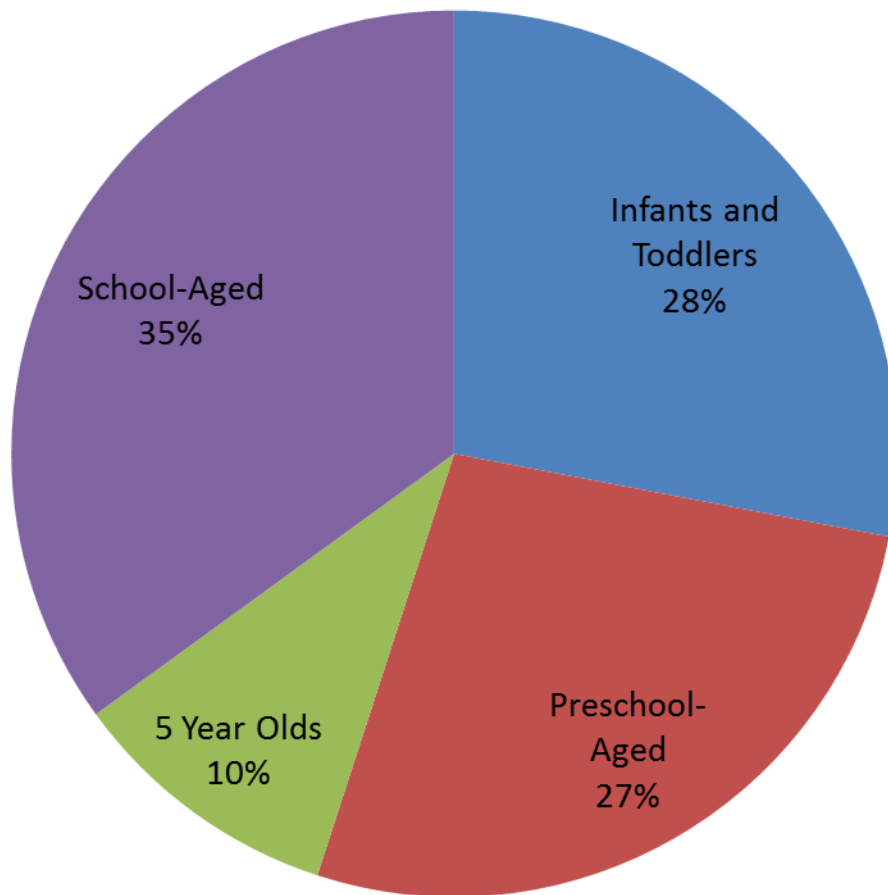
CCDF is the largest source of federal funding to help pay for child care for low-income working parents.

- Serves 1.4 million children under age 13 from 850,000 low-income working families each month.
- Provided \$5.7 billion in discretionary and mandatory/matching funds in FY2016 to States, Territories and Tribes.



# KEY CCDF STATISTICS

## Age of Children Served:



## Other:

- Half of families served are below poverty. Almost another third are between 100 and 150% of poverty.
- Care is provided by 340,000 center- and home-based providers.
- Nationally, 91% of children receive CCDF through vouchers





## CCDF CONT'D

**Addresses the  
Law in 4 major  
topical areas**

Protect the  
**health and safety**  
of children in  
child care

Help parents  
make informed  
**consumer**  
**choices and**  
**access**  
information to  
support child  
development

Provide **equal**  
**access** to stable,  
high quality child  
care for low-  
income children

**Enhance the**  
**quality of child**  
care and the  
early childhood  
workforce





# PURPOSE OF HEAD START



- **To promote the school readiness of low income children by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development –**
  - in a learning environment that supports children's growth in language, literacy, mathematics, science, social and emotional functioning, creative arts, physical skills, and approaches to learning and
  - through the provision of health, educational, nutritional, social and other services that are determined, based on family needs assessments, to be necessary.





# HEAD START PROGRAM



- **Head Start (HS)**
  - Serves children ages 3-5 years old and their families.
- **Early Head Start (EHS)**
  - Serves pregnant mothers and children ages birth to 3 years old and their families.
- **Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships (EHS – CCP)**
  - Early Head Start delivered in partnership with providers receiving child care subsidies.
- **HS and EHS may be delivered in either center-based or home-based models, EHS – CCP is center-based only.**

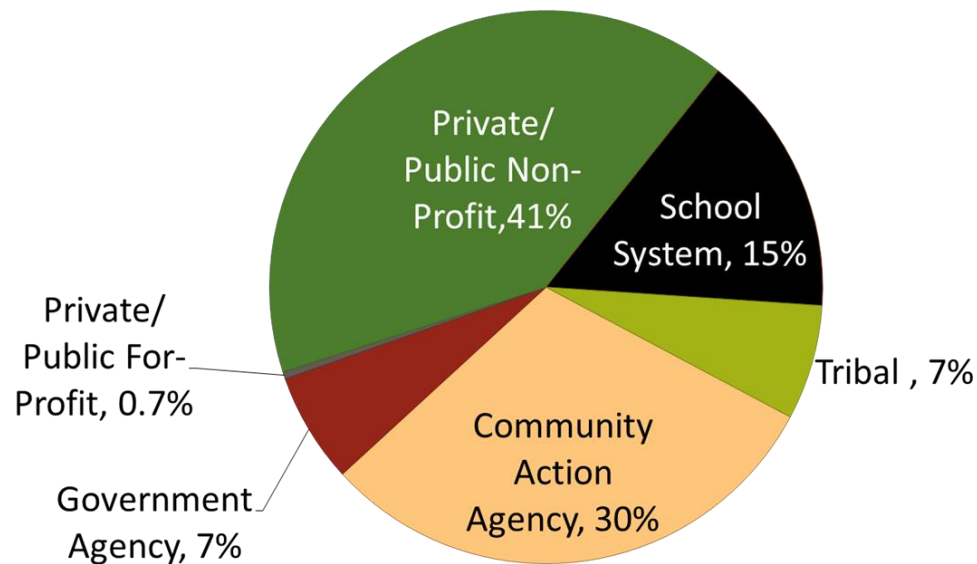




# HEAD START GRANTEES



- **Number of Grantees**
  - 1,600 Head Start and Early Head Start grantees nationwide including territories.
- **Number of Grants**
  - 2,000 Head Start and Early Head Start child-serving grants.

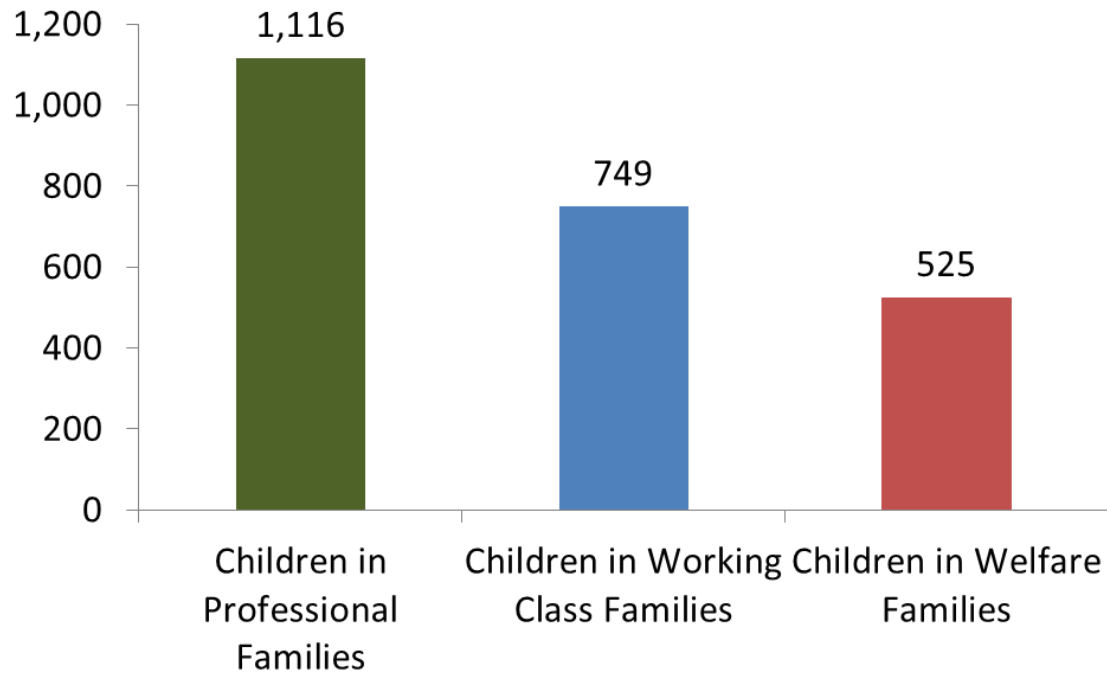






# A FOCUS ON EARLY LITERACY IN B – 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

## 30 Million Word Gap by Age 4



Source: Hart & Risley, 1995





# FORMULATING EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION PLANS

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## Speaker:

- ***Patricia Mardsen-Kish***, Director of Education Programs, Norwalk Housing Authority





# NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY - EDUCATIONAL VISION

NHA maintains an innovative and expansive vision for what public housing should provide, beyond simply safe and affordable living.

In 1997 we began to formalize our educational journey. Our broad and innovative educational initiative is made up of:

- Early childhood outreach
- Afterschool Program for grades K-5 at five learning centers located at resident properties
- Bridge to College and Career Program for grades 6-12 at one dedicated Learning Center
- College Scholarship Program

The NHA Learning Centers are the centerpiece of NHA's Educational Initiative; they have an expectation of college completion/workforce readiness beginning as early as pre-school and kindergarten.





# CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING AN EDUCATIONAL CORE

- Defining our education mission
- Changing a culture within the public housing community, “education is a game-changer”
- Knowing and understanding all of the educational resources programs in our community
- Taking a seat at the community tables that are connected with educational outcomes and resources
- Forming a strong alliance with the Norwalk Public Schools and Early Childhood Council





## CN PLANNING GRANT – ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN EDUCATION

- Engaged the larger community and established an education committee connected with the larger education umbrella (Norwalk ACTS) and Norwalk Public Schools to identify key education goals.
- Aligned NHA education work with Norwalk Public Schools and Norwalk ACTS – Working together to Raise the Bar & Close the GAP.
- Formalized a data sharing agreement with the Norwalk Public Schools to receive report cards, standardized assessment data and attendance on our students.
- Joined Norwalk ACTS community action networks (CANS), a forum that is specific to age groups.





# CN IMPLEMENTATION GRANT — EDUCATION STRATEGIES

## Early Learning: Children Enter Kindergarten Ready To Learn

- Enrollment in early learning programs among Washington Village children 0-5
- Improve early childhood health to increase school readiness
- Connect families to supports that promote early childhood health and literacy-rich, safe, and supportive home environments
- Provide opportunities for family literacy activities (Raising Reader program, Norwalk READS book fairs)







## EDUCATION STRATEGIES CONT'D

### K-12 schools: Children are proficient in key academic subjects and graduate from high school college and career ready

- Enroll youth in supplemental and continuous educational opportunities and enrichment activities
- Encourage and prepare students for transition:
  - pre-school to Kindergarten
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade to 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - 12<sup>th</sup> grade transition to college/career
- Use neighborhood schools as community resources
- Connect youth to mentoring to help address the achievement gap





# FORMULATING EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION PLANS

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## Speaker:

- ***Elson Nash***, Team Leader, Promise Neighborhoods, Department of Education



# Promise Neighborhoods Program Overview

## Vision

The vision of this program is that all children and youth growing up in Promise Neighborhoods have access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support that will prepare them to attain an excellent education and successfully transition to college and a career.

## Funding

**FY10:** \$10M (21 planning grants)

**FY11:** \$30M (15 planning grants, 5 implementation)

**FY12:** \$60M (10 planning grants, 7 new implementation, 5 continuations)

**FY16:** \$72M (6 new implementation, 7 continuations)

## Applicants

- (1) Nonprofit organizations,
- (2) Institutions of higher education, and
- (3) Indian tribes

# Promise Neighborhoods

## Early Learning Components

Early Learning Solutions as part of the Cradle-to-Career Continuum	Early Learning Network (Competitive Preference Priority*)
<b>Build community support and involvement to significantly improve educational outcomes, and to support the healthy development and well-being of children and youth in the neighborhood.</b>	<b>Establish, enhance, or modify an existing network of early learning programs and services to ensure that they are high-quality and comprehensive for children from birth through the third grade.</b>
Create a high level of participation in cradle-to-career supports for children and youth, where over time a greater proportion of the neighborhood is served by programs and neighborhood indicators show significant progress.	Ensure that the network establishes a high standard of quality across early learning settings and is designed to improve outcomes across multiple domains of early learning.

\* The early learning CPP was used in 2011, 2012 and 2016.

# Examples of planning stage activities related to early learning

- Conducted a needs assessment and segmentation analysis so there is a clear understanding of gaps in service and the populations targeted for the intervention.
- Worked with government, non-profit and higher education partners around shared interests, activities, and data.
- Coordinated, initiated or expanded early learning efforts among providers in the network.
- Developed a data system that collects administrative data and individual longitudinal data.

## Early Learning Networks to jumpstart HUD Choice Neighborhoods planning efforts

Grantee	Early Learning Challenge/Pre Development Grants (State Grant)	Local Early Learning Network	Campaign for Grade Level Reading
Phoenix, AZ	State of AZ - Nicol Russell - <a href="mailto:Nicol.Russell@azed.gov">Nicol.Russell@azed.gov</a> (PDG)		ron@smarterlearninggroup.com
Sanford, FL		Early Learning Coalition of Seminole County	
Louisville, KY	State of KY- Linda Hampton - <a href="mailto:Linda.Hampton@ky.gov">Linda.Hampton@ky.gov</a> (ELC)		ron@smarterlearninggroup.com
Shreveport, LA	State of LA - Nasha Patel <a href="mailto:Nasha.Patel@la.gov">Nasha.Patel@la.gov</a> (PDG)	Step Forward Strive Network	
Asbury, NJ	State of NJ – Ellen <a href="mailto:Wolock@doe.state.nj.us">Wolock@doe.state.nj.us</a> (ELC)		
Dayton, OH	State of OH - Wendy Grove <a href="mailto:Wendy.Grove@education.ohio.gov">Wendy.Grove@education.ohio.gov</a> (ELC)		ron@smarterlearninggroup.com
Pittsburgh, PA	State of PA -Susan Polojac – <a href="mailto:spolojac@pa.gov">spolojac@pa.gov</a> (ELC)		
Nashville, TN	State of TN - <a href="mailto:Lisa.Wiltshire@tn.gov">Lisa.Wiltshire@tn.gov</a> (PDG)	Alignment Nashville	
Brownsville, TX			ron@smarterlearninggroup.com
Newport News, VA	State of VA – (PDG) Mark Allan - <a href="mailto:Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov">Mark.Allan@doe.virginia.gov</a>	Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula	



# Resources

- Promise Neighborhoods Website:  
<http://www.promiseneighborhoods.ed.gov>
- Early Learning in Promise Neighborhoods:  
[http://www.cssp.org/community/neighborhood-investment/body/Early\\_Learning\\_in\\_Promise\\_Neighborhoods.pdf](http://www.cssp.org/community/neighborhood-investment/body/Early_Learning_in_Promise_Neighborhoods.pdf)
- Eastside Promise Neighborhood Strategic Plan to Achieve Results:  
<http://eastsidepromise.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/EPN-Strategic-Plan-to-Achieve-Results-2013-2017.pdf>
- Case studies on schools implementing early education strategies:  
<https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/implementing-early-strategies/report.pdf>



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## Speaker:

- ***Abra Lyons-Warren***, Senior Program & Policy Manager, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities





# COUNCIL FOR LARGE PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES (CLPHA)

## *Housing Is Initiative*

- Addressing Generational Poverty
- Stability
- Access
- Engagement
- Creating & Maintaining Partnerships
- Data Sharing
  - Templates:
    - <http://www.housingis.org/resource/7806>
    - <http://www.housingis.org/resource/7757>
  - [Data Sharing Road Map: Improving Student Outcomes through Partnerships between Public Housing Agencies and School Districts](#) released by HUD in collaboration with the Department of Education
- *Housing Is* Clearinghouse
  - [www.housingis.org](http://www.housingis.org)





# QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL?

- ***Marsha Basloe***, Sr. Advisor for Early Childhood Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- ***Patricia Mardsen-Kish***, Director of Education Programs, Norwalk Housing Authority
- ***Elson Nash***, Team Leader, Promise Neighborhoods, Department of Education
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